

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 NEA-09 SAB-01 SAM-01 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /089 W

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R 241325Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3995

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

EMBASSY LONDON 2037

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 00874

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, SW

SUBJECT: IRVING BROWN'S VISIT TO STOCKHOLM

BEGIN SUMMARY

1. AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN WAS ACCORDED  
NOTABLY WARM RECEPTION BY TOP SWEDISH TRADE UNION LEADERS  
DURING VISIT TO STOCKHOLM FROM FEBRUARY 17-20. VISIT  
MARKED RESUMPTION OF TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY TIES BETWEEN  
TWO LABOR MOVEMENTS THAT HAD GROWN APART DURING RECENT  
YEARS OF STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND SWEDISH GOVERN-  
MENTS. HIS HOSTS RESPONDED WILLINGLY TO BROWN'S CENTRAL  
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PLEA FOR CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN AFL-CIO AND FREE UNIONS

OF WESTERN EUROPE IN DEALING WITH MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THIS WAS VERY WORTHWHILE EXERCISE AND, WITH PROPER FOLLOW-UP, SHOULD PRODUCE CONCRETE BENEFITS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS, BROWN HELD SEVERAL HOURS OF INTENSIVE TALKS WITH LO PRESIDENT GUNNAR NILSSON, TCO PRESIDENT LENNART BODSTROM AND WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES, THORBJORN CARLSSON AND SEVEN FOCKSTEDT. MAIN THESIS WHICH HE PURSUED VIGOROUSLY WAS DEVELOPMENT OF COLLABORATIVE APPROACH BY AFL-CIO AND DEMOCRATIC LABOR ORGANIZATIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE TO KEY INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN, E.G., ENERGY, INFLATION AND MULTINATIONALS. BROWN SINGLED OUT OECD'S TRADE UNION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS PARTICULARLY USEFUL AND STRATEGICALLY LOCATED FORUM WHERE UNIONS COULD GET TOGETHER TO WORK OUT COMMON POSITIONS, AND SAID HE WAS DOING UTMOST TO PERSUADE GEORGE MEANY TO FULLY RESTORE AFL-CIO PARTICIPATION IN THIS BODY. BROWN ARGUED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT WE LABOR WAS DISSIPATING VALUABLE TIME, ENERGY AND ATTENTION ON RELATIONS WITH SOVIET AND EE UNIONS. SUCH ACTIVITY, HE SAID, HAD NO REAL BEARING ON PROBLEMS FACING DEVELOPED WORLD, WAS RISKY IN ITSELF AND COULD ONLY BENEFIT OUR ENEMIES.

3. SWEDISH LEADERS RESPONDED SYMPATHETICALLY TO BROWN'S CALL FOR COOPERATION AND SAID IT MADE EMINENTLY GOOD SENSE TO THEM. HIS ADVICE TO FORGET EASTERN EUROPE, HOWEVER, ENCOUNTERED SOME RESISTANCE FROM CARLSSON AND FOCKSZDT. WHILE THEY CONSIDERED CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIT UNIONS AS LITTLE MORE THAN GESTURE, BOTH INSISTED THAT ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE (INITIATED BY US, THEY POINTED OUT) COMPELLED WE UNIONS TO FOLLOW THIS PATH. BESIDES, THEY MAINTAINED, SWEDISH LABOR, AT LEAST WAS IN NO DANGER OF BEING LED ASTRAY. IT HAD FOUGHT AND DEFEATED COMMUNISM IN ITS OWN RANKS AND CERTAINLY HAD NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT IT.

4. DOWN-TO-EARTH LO PRESIDENT MADE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON BROWN. OF ALL HIS EUROPEAN CONTEMPORARIES, BROWN REMARKED, NILSSON SEEMED MOST IN TUNE WITH AFL-CIO VIEWS AND ATTITUDES ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR MATTERS. BROWN PARTICULARLY LIKED NILSSON'S ELOQUENT SHRUG AND WAVE OF HAND

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IN DISMISSING SIGNIFICANCE OF EAST-WEST LABOR CONTACTS AND HIS OBVIOUSLY LOW OPINION OF DGB PRESIDENT HEINZ VETTER. WHILE BODSTROM DID NOT IMPRESS HIM AS FAVORABLY, BROWN COMMENDED HIS UNDOUBTED INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY AND FORTHRIGHT MANNER.

5. PRIOR TO MEETINGS, LABATT DISCUSSED WITH BROWN PLANS AFOOT TO ARRANGE INVITATIONS TO AFL-CIO CONVENTION FOR

NILSSON AND BODSTROM IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR ATTENDANCE AT ICFTU CONGRESS IN MEXICO CITY. BROWN POURED COLD WATER ON THIS IDEA SAYING THAT TWO SWEDISH LABOR LEADERS WOULD BE LOST IN LARGE MOB OF GUESTS AND NOT RECEIVE VIP TREATMENT THEY MERIT. INSTEAD, HE PROMISED SERIOUSLY EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING EACH OF THEM APPOINTMENTS WITH GEORGE MEANY AFTER ICFTU CONGRESS.

6. BROWN TOLD SWEDES HE WAS CURRENTLY BUSY TRYING MARSHAL SUPPORT AMONG WORKER MEMBERS TO OPPOSE GRANTING PLO OBSERVER STATUS AT ILO CONFERENCE. TOPIC IS ON AGENDA OF UPCOMING GOVERNING BODY MEETING. AS LAST-DITCH STRATEGY, BROWN SAID HE IS ATTEMPTING TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE FOR PROPOSAL TO REFER DECISION TO PLENARY CONFERENCE IN JUNE. PROGRESS IN MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS DURING INTERVENING MONTHS, HE REUNED, MIGHT DEUSE THIS ISSUE. SWEDES ASSURED BROWN THEY WERE FIRMLY IN HIS CORNER. TO THEIR EVIDENT DISTRESS, BROWN DESCRIBED SHARPLY MOUNTING HOSTILITY WITHIN AFL-CIO TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS RESULT UNESCO ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL AND ARKAT APPEARANCE AT UNGA. WHILE HE WOULD PERSONALLY REGARD IT AS UNWISE AND SELF-DEFEATING, BROWN SAID, VOTE IN FAVOR OF PLO PRESENCE COULD BE FINAL STRAW IN PUSHING AFL-CIO OUT OF ILO.

7. BROWN CRITICIZED ALLEGED BEHAVIOR OF NORWEGIAN INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KAARE SANDEGREN AT PREPARATORY SESSIONS FOR EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING. ACCORDING REPORTS OF BRITISH AND GERMAN PARTICIPANTS, SANDEGREN HAD BEEN FAR TOO CONCILIATORY TOWARDS RUSSIAN PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY KEY ONE OF ESTABLISHING PERMANENT SECRETARIAT. CARLSSON REPLIED IN ANGRY TONE THAT SANDEGREN HAD ATTENDED SESSIONS AS SPOKESMAN FOR ALL NORDIC MOVEMENTS AND, IF REPORTS WERE TRUE, HE HAD VIOLATED STRICT INSTRUCTIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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BECAUSE DANES, NORWEGIANS, AND SWEDES WERE UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO CREATION OF ANY CONTINUING MACHINERY.

8. THERE WAS BRIEF EXCHANGE ON PORTUGAL. ONLY POINT OF INTEREST WAS STATEMENT BY FOCKSTEDT THAT SWEDISH UNIONS HAD MORE OR LESS GIVEN UP ON INTERSINDICAL AND WERE NOW WORKING CLOSELY WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO SHORE UP SOCIALISTS.

9. COMMENT. SHORTLY AFTER MY ARRIVAL HERE, I ASKED BROWN TO COME TO STOCKHOLM. WE ARE GRATIFIED WITH RESULTS AND SO IS HE.  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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